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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 9 November 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the appeal of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the international and Yugoslav public for the protection of the Jasenovać Memorial.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 114 (c).

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Charge d'affaires a.i.

Annex

APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL AND YUGOSLAV PUBLIC FOR THE PROTECTION OF JASENOVAĆ

The Ministry for Education and Culture of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers it a cultural and civilizational obligation to draw the attention of the international and Yugoslav public to the inhumanity and inappropriateness of the proposal of Croatia's President Tudjman to transform the Jasenovać Memorial, an area in which the independent State of Croatia established in the Second World War one of the most dreadful concentration camps in Europe, into a general memorial centre dedicated to all Croatian victims from the Second World War. Even the Nazi authorities, themselves the creators of the most cruel places of torture in the history of mankind (Dachau, Auschwitz, etc.) were horrified by the atrocities committed in this concentration camp.

In Jasenovać, the notorious Ustashi authorities and the army of the then Croatian State executed nearly 700,000 people in the most cruel way, the majority of them (over 600,000) being Serbs, inhabitants of their "independent State", as well as tens of thousands of Jews, Gypsies and Croat anti-Fascists.

Franjo Tudjman has presented this idea and proposal several times since he became the leader of the so-called democratic Croatia: he announced it publicly for the first time at the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague on 5 November 1991, then at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War in Zagreb in April 1991 and, finally, at the two-day session of his party, the Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) in October 1993, promoting it as one of the most important projects of his party and personal policy.

In this way, President Tudjman and his party have again proved their extreme nationalism and their return to the Fascist methods of State set-up.

This is not only an attempt to cover up and minimize the atrocities of the former Croatian State, whose past Tudjman, the historian, negates and recasts in his works and public speeches, reducing the number of victims in this camp to "only 20,000 to 30,000". What worries and insults us much more is the idea and intention to bury the murderers together with the innocent victims of the terror in Jasenovać. This would not only insult and desecrate Serb and Yugoslav graves and holy places, but also falsify world history as a whole.

Therefore, the Federal Ministry of Culture and Education addresses this appeal to all organizations and people in the world committed to the loftiest human ideals, democratic values of society and scientific and historical truth, to condemn and prevent the realization of this idea, which is nothing but an attempt to falsify history, under the pretext of pacifying the conflicts from the Second World War.